



# Department of Human Services

**Executive Director:** Lisa-Michele Church

**Divisions/Programs:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
- Utah State Hospital  
Child and Family Services  
Services for People with Disabilities  
- Utah State Developmental Center  
Aging and Adult Service  
Juvenile Justice Services  
Office of Recovery Services  
Office of Public Guardian  
Office of Licensing  
Office of Fiscal Operations  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
Office of Services Review  
Office of Child Protection Ombudsman



**Full Time Employees:** 4,668

**Contact Information:** <http://www.dhs.utah.gov/>  
(801) 538-4001

**Mission Statement:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides direct and contracted services to a broad range of individuals in our community, including persons with disabilities, mental health or substance abuse issues, children and families in crisis, juveniles in the criminal justice system, the aged, and vulnerable adults.

## Emerging Issues and Strategic Focus:

The most common complaints of child abuse involve children who are affected by substance abuse, who are witnesses to domestic violence or who are sexually abused. Substance abuse is a factor in sixty percent of children entering foster care.

Changes in federal law (Adam Walsh Act) have a significant impact on Juvenile Justice Services and the youth they serve. Most juvenile sex offenders are not sexual predators, are more responsive to treatment, and have lower recidivism than adult sex offenders. However, as registered sex offenders, the options for placement of youth will be limited. The requirement that certain offenders remain on the registry for 25 years will affect a rehabilitated juvenile's ability to work and live in the community into adulthood. We also expect a dramatic increase in competency evaluations for juveniles.

Utah has the sixth most rapidly aging population in the nation. US Census Bureau projections indicate a senior population in Utah of 482,542 by 2030, an increase of 165 percent over the year 2000.

The growth in the school-age population will increase the demand for juvenile justice services, child and family services, autism services, and domestic violence services.

Over 1,800 people are waiting for services provided by the Division of Services for People with Disabilities.



#### Quality of Life:

- Meet the cost and staffing needs of increasing caseloads for programs that serve children and youth
- Provide treatment and court supervision for those addicted to drugs and alcohol
- Seek innovative strategies to serve those on the Department's (DSPD) waiting list
- Explore cost-effective community alternatives to more expensive institutional long-term care
- Explore improvements in technology, policy, and legislation that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of child support collections and medical support recoveries and cost avoidance



#### Governance:

- Invest in proven technologies to improve productivity
- Streamline business processes and service delivery